UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(2)/L.29
9 December 1998

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Second session
Dakar, 30 November-11 December 1998
Agenda item 7

REPORT OF THE SESSION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session

Rapporteur: Mr. Samvel BALOYAN (Armenia)

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GE.98-73385 (E)
DKR.98-329

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* To be completed following the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference.

I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Welcoming ceremony

1. On 30 November 1998, H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, opened the welcoming ceremony and made a statement.

2. Statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who also conveyed a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

B. Opening of the session

3. The second session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, was opened in Dakar, Senegal, on 30 November 1998, by the representative of the President of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Election of the President

(Agenda item 1)

4. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference elected H.E. Mr. Souty Touré, Minister for the Environment and Protection of Nature of the Republic of Senegal, as President by acclamation.

5. At the same meeting, the President made a statement.

D. Opening and general statements

6. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement.

7. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the Group of 77), Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the European Union), Canada (also on behalf of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States of America) and Ecuador (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group).

9. The representative of Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA-TM) also made a statement on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations.

10. At the 2nd plenary meeting, statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and the representative of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: League of Arab States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Statements were made by the representatives of the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme also made a statement.

11. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 7 December, the Vice-President of the World Bank, Mr. Ian Johnson, made a statement.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 3)

12. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, following statements by the representative of Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the European Union) and Benin (on behalf of the African Group), the Conference adopted its agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/1 and Corr.1.

B. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 2)

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference heard statements by the chairmen of the regional groups, who put forward candidates for the posts of Vice-President of the Conference and for the post of Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology.

14. At the same meeting, the Conference elected Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology at its second session.

15. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, the representative of Benin stated on behalf of the African Group that, as host continent of the second session of the Conference of the Parties, it wished to show understanding and flexibility with respect to that group's representation on the Bureau. Accordingly, it was prepared to conform to the consensus by

claiming only two members for the Bureau of the second session, on the understanding that it intends to claim three members in a Bureau of 11 members for the third and subsequent sessions.

16. At the same meeting, the Conference then elected by acclamation the following officers to serve on its Bureau for the second session:

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)

Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray (Argentina)

Mr. Jafarov Ogtay (Azerbaijan)

Mr. Marc Gedopt (Belgium)

Mr. Olivier Jalbert (Canada)

Mr. Abdelmajid Khabour (Jordan)

Mr. Ali Saad Altokhais (Saudi Arabia)

Mr. Hatem Ben Salem (Tunisia)

Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)

C. Organization of work, including the establishment of a Committee of the Whole

(Agenda item 3)

17. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference approved the proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/1, annex II, and Corr.1.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

18. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole at its second session to consider outstanding issues for adoption by the Conference.

19. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated Mr. Marc Gedopt (Belgium) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

D. Committee on Science and Technology

20. The Committee on Science and Technology was convened under the Chairmanship of Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran). The Committee held seven meetings (1st to 7th), from 1 to 4 December 1998.

21. The Committee had before it the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of vice-chairpersons.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Benchmarks and indicators.
5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.
6. Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology.
7. Traditional knowledge.
8. Future work programme of the Committee.
9. Roster of independent experts.
10. Creation, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels.
11. Other matters.
12. Report of the session.

22. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee elected the following Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation*: Mr. Samuel Mutiso (Kenya), Mr. Guido Soto (Chile) and Ms. Linda Brown (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

23. The Committee on Science and Technology made a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on them at its 5th and __ meetings, on 7 and __ December (see paras. ____) (to be completed).

E. Admission of organizations as observers

(Agenda item 5)

Observer status for intergovernmental organizations

24. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12, annex I.

25. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 4 December, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12/Add.1, annex I.

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* The post of one Vice-Chairperson remained vacant.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

26. At its 3rd meeting, the Conference also decided to accredit the non-governmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12, annex III.

F. Attendance

[To be completed]

G. Documentation

[To be completed]

[REMAINING CHAPTERS AND FINAL DECISIONS TO BE COMPLETED]